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[22750/525]

**EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
GROUP ART UNIT 1771**

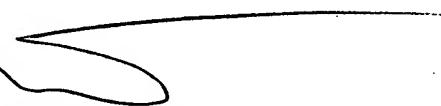
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : Rudolf GAERTNER et al.  
Serial No. : 10/074,404  
Filed : February 12, 2002  
For : Tufted Backing and Method of Manufacturing Same  
Examiner : Cheryl Ann Juska  
Art Unit : 1771  
Confirmation No. : 7026

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: February 5, 2007

Signature:   
Richard M. Rosati (Reg. No. 31,792)

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

SIR:

In response to the Final Office Action dated December 14, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.